

(b) an interactive polymer network which is crosslinked inside the pores and on the surface of the mineral oxide matrix.

6. (Amended) Dense mineral oxide solid supports comprising:

(a) a mineral oxide matrix having an external surface and pores, wherein the pores have a pore volume which is less than 30% of the total volume of the mineral oxide matrix, and

(b) an interactive polymer network which is crosslinked inside the pores and on the surface of the mineral oxide matrix,

wherein said dense mineral oxide solid supports have a density of 2.1 to 11, and a particle size of 10  $\mu m$  to 100  $\mu m$ .